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***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

**Bigger and Better: Classic Cinemas Meadowview Theatre Hosts Ribbon Cutting for Reopening and Expansion**

**Kankakee, IL** – According to SalesFuel, 95% of movie fans stated they miss going to movies, a memory that almost seems distant while theaters are starting to safely open following shut down during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Movie goers can look forward to several improvements while Classic Cinemas Meadowview Theatre and Paramount have both recently reopened after being closed for over a year. A ribbon cutting was held on Thursday, April 15th at Meadowview to highlight their new improvements and expansion.

Meadowview, which once featured three auditoriums for showings, now has seven auditoriums. The theatre continued to operate during construction for expansion which began in 2019. Theatres one and two have now been combined into the main theatre (auditorium #1) which seats 296 at full capacity, making it the largest theatre auditorium in the area. The big screen features the new XQ auditorium which has a 55 foot screen, enhanced DTS:X audio, and laser projection. Heated recliners are an additional option for guests in both Meadowview and Paramount theaters.

“We considered many dates for reopening while we know people are ready to get back to the movies. We are very excited for our guests to enjoy the new improvements. We want to assure them that we are operating and abiding by all state and local guidelines for safety. We are set up for social distancing and limited capacity. Cinema Safe Standards were developed specifically for movie going and I encourage everyone to visit our website for more information,” said Kat Clary, VP of Marketing for Classic Cinemas.

For more information on these standards, visit <https://www.classiccinemas.com/article/reopening>.

"Visiting movie theaters is a popular option for families. Having the theaters reopen signals that some sort of normalcy is returning. Paramount and Meadowview theaters have been a part of Kankakee for a long time. I am extremely grateful for the investment, new amenities and partnership they have had with our community. Paramount has especially been in our community for a very long time. They will be celebrating their 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year and in my opinion, they have the best popcorn of any movie theater," said Mayor Wells-Armstrong.

Many guests often comment on free refills on popcorn and drinks being one of their favorite reasons to go to the movies in Kankakee, a perk that isn't common among competitors. Wednesday Morning Movie Series for \$1 will also be returning. More details and announcements will follow. To stay up to date, visit the following sites:

- <https://www.classiccinemas.com/>
- <https://www.classiccinemas.com/program?location=paramount>
- <https://www.facebook.com/CCParamount>
- <https://www.facebook.com/CCMeadowview>

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The City of Kankakee is dedicated to protecting, building, and nurturing the community while enhancing lives. We are a historic, vibrant, and active riverfront community. We continue to transform into an extraordinary place to dream, grow, and thrive. Embracing our diversity, we strive to be progressive, inclusive, and innovative. For more information on the City of Kankakee, please visit the website at [www.citykankakee-il.gov](http://www.citykankakee-il.gov).